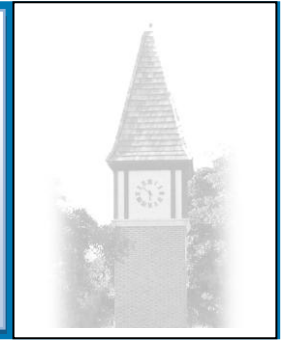


# Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Volume 17 Issue 6

November-December 2009

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## **Westminster Police Department**

8200 Westminster Blvd.  
Westminster, CA 92683  
**Emergencies Call 911**

Business Line:  
714-898-3315

Dispatch Ext: 326  
Traffic Division Ext. 339  
Records Bureau Ext. 371

Business Hours:  
Sunday- Saturday  
7:00a.m. – 7:00p.m.  
Website:

[www.westminster-  
ca.gov/depts/police](http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police)

## TIPS FOR A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY

During the year-end holidays, people are often busy, excited, and sometimes a little careless. The following are a series of holiday crime prevention tips that should be embraced this holiday season.

### **At Home**

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave your house or apartment, even for a few minutes.
- Don't display holiday gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway. Store gifts before you go away on a holiday trip.
- If you go out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or television so the house or apartment appears to be occupied.
- If you take a holiday trip away from your home, have some interior lights activated by an automatic timer. Have a neighbor or family member watch your house, pick up the mail and newspaper and park his or her vehicle in your driveway from time to time.
- Be wary of strangers soliciting for charitable donations. They may attempt to take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays. Ask for identification, how donated funds are used, if contributions are tax deductible, etc. If you aren't satisfied with the answers, don't give.
- Immediately after the holidays, mark new gifts with an identification number and record new serial numbers.
- Test your smoke detectors.
- Use only fire resistant ornaments on a holiday tree and make sure electric lights are in good working order. Don't leave the lights on overnight or when you are away from home.
- If you have house guests, advise them of your security precautions and make sure they adhere to them.
- Avoid leaving boxes from purchases (especially TVs, DVD players, Computers, etc.) out on the curb for trash pickup.

*Continued on Page 2*

## **Holiday Tips (Continued)**

### **Shopping**

- Shop before dark if possible. Possibly coordinate shopping trips with a friend. Never park in an unlit lot or area, no matter how convenient it is.
- Lock your packages and gifts in your vehicle's trunk. Keep your vehicle doors locked and windows closed.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check, credit card, or debit card whenever possible.
- Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm. Keep a wallet in an inside jacket, not a back trouser pocket.
- Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated. They should never go into a parking lot alone. 🚗

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### **Credit Card Fraud**

The fraudulent use of credit cards is not limited to the loss or theft of actual credit cards. A capable criminal only needs to know your credit card number to fraudulently make numerous charges, including cash withdrawals, against your account.

Credit card fraud costs cardholders and issuers hundreds of millions of dollars each year. Some credit card companies are displaying a photograph of the cardholder so criminals can't make face-to-face purchases with a stolen credit card. The following are a few tips to help you prevent credit card fraud.

- Photocopy both the front and back of all your credit cards and keep the copies in a safe and secure location. This will enable you to cancel your credit cards as soon as possible if it is lost or stolen.
- Endorse all credit cards as soon as they arrive.
- When checking out at store registers, shield the credit card from people around you.

- Someone might be looking over your shoulder to copy your card, or they may take a picture of your card with their cellular phone.
- During credit card transaction, keep the card in your sight and get it back as quickly as possible.
- Save credit card receipts to compare with billing statements.
- Open credit card billing statements promptly and reconcile accounts monthly, just as you would your checking account.
- Don't carry more credit or debit cards than you absolutely have to.
- Always total your charge slip before signing the credit card receipt. Don't leave blank spaces where additional amounts could be added. Draw a line through blank spaces.
- Unless you are absolutely confident you are dealing with a reputable company, never give your credit card number over the telephone.
- Never lend your credit cards to anyone.
- Notify credit card companies in advance of any change of address.
- Don't leave credit cards or receipts lying around unattended.
- Notify credit card companies in advance of a change of address.
- Destroy unused credit card applications such as those received in the mail advising the recipient "you have been pre-approved for ..."

### **Report Credit Card Losses and Fraud**

If you lose your credit or charge cards, or if you realize they have been lost or stolen, immediately call the issuer(s). Many companies have toll-free numbers and 24-hour service to deal with such emergencies. By law, once you report the loss or theft, you have no further responsibility for unauthorized charges. In any event, your maximum liability under federal law is \$50.00 per card.

If you suspect fraud, you may be asked to sign a statement that you did not make the purchase(s) in question. 🚗

## **Travel Crime Prevention**

Motor vehicle theft is a serious problem in many parts of the world. In the United States, the annual loss from car theft is over \$4 billion. The Automotive Information Council reports that over one million motor vehicles are stolen in the U.S. each year. That's one motor vehicle theft every 31 seconds.

### **MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Lock it and pocket the keys. Nearly 20% of all vehicles stolen have the keys in them. Remember to lock the trunk, the hatchback, or the tailgate or a station wagon or sport utility vehicle (SUV).
- If your motor vehicle is an older model, replace standard door lock buttons with tapered ones. These replacements are inexpensive and much more difficult to pry up.
- If you use self-service gasoline station or convenience stores, don't leave the keys in the vehicle when you go inside to pay.
- Never hide a second set of keys in the vehicle. Extra keys can easily be found if the thief takes time to look. Store a spare key in your wallet.
- If possible, avoid parking next to vans, pick-ups or other large vehicles. These large vehicles can "hide" your vehicle and make it more difficult for others to observe.
- Periodically check your license plates to make sure they haven't been stolen, switched or altered.
- Whenever possible, park in well lighted and busy areas.
- Avoid transferring items to the trunk of a vehicle where it is to be parked. A thief may be watching. Checkbooks, credit cards or other credentials which a thief could misuse should not be left in a motor vehicle. 🚗

## **UPDATE: Neighborhood Watch TV Meetings**

In the last issue of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter we announced our latest venture to get safety information to you via television. Unfortunately our telecast has been delayed due to scheduling issues. It is our hope that we will be able to provide you with safety information via television in the near future. Keep your eyes open for updates in your Neighborhood Watch Newsletter because we will see this project through. When the time is right, our local channel WTV-3, will air Neighborhood Watch segments the second Monday of the month at 7:30PM. (These segments will be rebroadcast the last Sunday of each month at 5:30PM.) 📺

### **City of Westminster Department Directory**

Animal Control:  
714-898-3315 Ext. 365

**Chamber of Commerce:**  
**714-898-9648**

City Hall:  
714-898-3311

**Code Enforcement:**  
**714-893-3311**

Consumer Affairs:  
714-952-5210

Fair Housing Department:  
714-569-0823

**Family Resource Center:**  
**714-903-1331**

**Graffiti Hotline:**  
**714-895-2876**

Health Department:  
714-677-3600

West Justice Center:  
714-896-7111

**Recruitment:**  
**714-898-3315 Ext. 395**

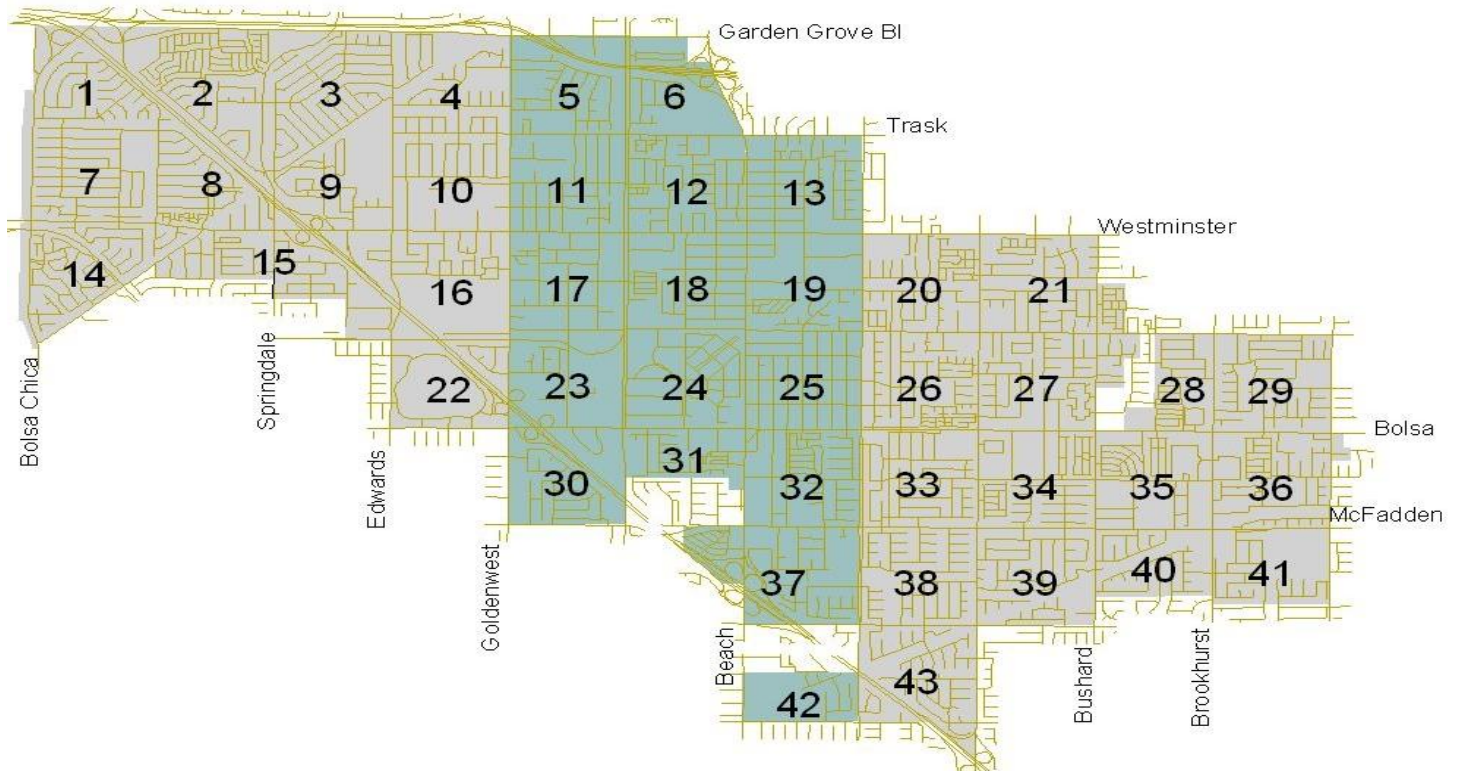
Westminster Senior Center:  
714-895-2878

Vector Control:  
714-971-2421

### **REMINDER:**

All issues of the  
Neighborhood Watch  
Newsletter are  
available online at:  
[http://www.westminster-  
ca.gov/depts/police/co  
mmunity](http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police/community)

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



## RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

A R E A	SEPT	OCT	YTD	LAST YEAR	A R E A	SEPT	OCT	YTD	LAST YEAR	A R E A	SEPT	OCT	YTD	LAST YEAR
1	0	1	2	3	16	0	1	3	6	31	1	0	1	3
2	0	1	10	5	17	1	1	4	4	32	1	0	2	3
3	0	0	7	6	18	2	2	13	2	33	1	0	8	11
4	1	1	5	4	19	0	1	1	6	34	0	0	4	8
5	0	1	1	11	20	0	0	11	19	35	2	1	9	7
6	0	0	0	4	21	1	1	8	21	36	0	0	8	10
7	0	0	6	4	22	0	0	0	2	37	0	0	3	2
8	0	0	6	4	23	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	1	8
9	0	1	3	7	24	0	0	0	0	39	1	0	8	3
10	1	0	5	8	25	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	4	2
11	1	0	5	5	26	0	0	6	7	41	0	1	3	5
12	1	0	4	8	27	2	0	5	10	42	0	0	0	0
13	0	0	3	4	28	0	1	5	11	43	0	1	5	7
14	1	0	7	4	29	0	1	5	5					
15	0	1	6	11	30	0	0	4	5					

	SEPT	OCT	YTD
<b>TOTAL BURGLARIES</b>	17	17	195

**This newsletter is published bimonthly. It is compiled and edited by Ja'Nelle Belton, WPD Police Service Officer- Community Relations.**